



Interpreting Jury Instructions/Interpreting for Deaf Jurors Workshop Description

September 27-28, 2013

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CSC, SC:L, OIC:C, SC:PA, CI and CT

Description: This is a two-day, 12 hour workshop focused on the process of interpreting jury instructions and interpreting for deaf jurors. The first day of the training focuses on interpreting jury instructions and is presented in a language-neutral design so that both spoken and signed language interpreters can participate. Attention will be given to the range of semantic, legal and procedural considerations associated with interpreting jury instructions. Participants will analyze jury instructions to identify implications for interpretation, and generate sample interpretations for peer review and discussion. Strategies for continued skill development will be explored.

During the second day of the workshop, the focus will be on interpreting for deaf jurors. The anatomy of jury duty—the selection process, the role and responsibilities of jurors, and the procedures that govern the work of a jury will be explored. Specific attention will be given to the legal foundation allowing for deaf jurors and the unique procedural considerations associated with the inclusion of deaf jurors. Issues of positioning of both the deaf juror and the interpreter will be explored, the dynamic of working in teams, the charge to the jury with respect to a deaf juror, and other relevant factors and the associated best practices for interpreters will be discussed. Additionally, further practice of the interpretation of jury instructions from English into ASL will occur with peer review and feedback.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this training, participants will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the unique considerations associated with interpreting jury instructions; including legal constructs, form, semantic equivalency, and message coherence.
- Interpret samples of jury instructions with increased accuracy.
- Describe the anatomy of jury duty including how jurors are selected, types of jury duty, and the roles and responsibilities of jurors.
- Identify a series of best practices associated with interpreting for deaf jurors.

Instructional Plan: Theoretical and legal foundation will be presented in lecture format with PowerPoint slides. Practical application will occur through small group discussion and analysis activities, practice, demonstration with peer and instructor review and feedback. Groups will share their findings with other groups and salient findings that arise from small group discussion will be shared with the full group. Best practices will be introduced and discussed in an open, collegial, interactive fashion in an effort to draw on the experiences and expertise of all participants.

Equipment: A computer with DVD capacity is required, along with an LCD projector and large screen for projecting the PPT and other instructional resources. These are to be provided by the host.



Handouts: The presenter will prepare handout materials and provide them to the host at least 2 weeks in advance of the workshop for duplication. Handouts will include one or two resource readings/articles, sample jury instructions, PPT handout, and other materials that may be of contribution to the learning process.

Speaker Bio:

Anna Witter-Merithew, M.Ed.
CSC, SC:L, OIC:C, SC:PA, CI and CT



Anna is the Assistant Director for the UNC DO IT Center. She has thirty-five years of experience in the field of interpreting as both a practitioner and educator. In her current capacity, she is responsible for the instructional programs of the Center which include a baccalaureate program in ASL-English interpreting, and several certificate programs in areas of interpreting specialization. In addition, Anna is a free-lance consultant, diagnostician and expert who works closely with state agencies, school systems, colleges and universities, court systems, and RID affiliates to develop a range of programs to meet the needs of aspiring and working interpreters.

Anna earned her Master's degree in Education from Athabasca University in the area of instructional design and technology. She also holds the CSC, SC: Legal, OIC: C, SC: Performing Arts and the CI and CT certificates awarded by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Before joining the UNC DO IT Center, Anna taught full-time in the Interpreter Training Program at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina where she currently resides with her husband Michael. Formerly, Anna was the Chairperson for the Department of Interpreter Education at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). She is also a co-founder of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT), a professional association of interpreter educators, and she served two terms as the association's Vice-President during 1996-2000. Between 1983 and 1989, Anna had the privilege of serving as the Vice-President (2 terms) and President (1 term) of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Two current publications of Anna include co-authorship of *Toward Competent Practice: Conversations with Stakeholders* with Leilani Johnson, Center Director, published by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., and *The Dimensions of Ethical Decision-Making* with colleague Kellie Stewart published by Sign Media, Inc. As well, she has several recent publications in national and international peer-reviewed interpreter journals related to a specialization in interpreting and the role of relational autonomy in defining interpreter identity. Currently, Anna serves on the Board of Editors for the CIT International Journal of Interpreter Education.